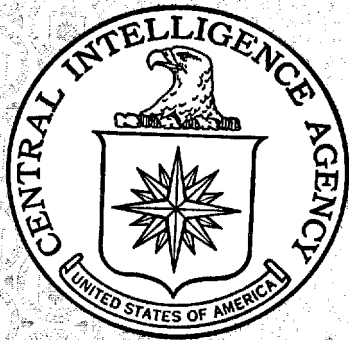


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CIA/RR CB 66-8
March 1966

Copy No. 61

INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

POWERFUL BROADCAST TRANSMITTERS
PLANNED IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN;
A NEW SOURCE OF FRICTION

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Office of Research and Reports

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POWERFUL BROADCAST TRANSMITTERS
PLANNED IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN:
A NEW SOURCE OF FRICTION*

Summary

Less than two months after signing the Tashkent agreement, at which they undertook to discourage any propaganda directed at the other country, India and Pakistan have reaffirmed their respective intentions to move ahead with the installation of powerful 1,000-kilowatt (kw), medium-wave radiobroadcasting transmitters. These huge transmitters -- scheduled for installation in Calcutta and Rajkot, India, and in Dacca and Peshawar, Pakistan (see the map) -- will be capable of providing wide-ranging radiobroadcasting services throughout the Asian subcontinent. Their coverage will overlap, and this will almost certainly precipitate an intense rivalry for listening audiences. Under conditions in which radiobroadcasting is considered an instrument of national policy, the result could be an added strain on an already taut relationship.

* The estimates and conclusions in this brief represent the best judgment of this Office as of 25 March 1966.

1. Background

Since 1960, India and Pakistan have made considerable progress in expanding their radiobroadcasting capabilities. In both countries the principal objective has been the buildup of domestic transmitting facilities to support national economic and political goals. Outwardly, international radiobroadcasting by each country has remained relatively stable, with only marginal increases in program hours. This conventional benchmark, however, fails to take account of the growth of broadcasting in the Indo-Pakistani border areas. Broadcasts in these areas are nominally included as part of the domestic radio service of each country, but, in fact, they reach similar ethnic groups living on both sides of the political boundary. Until the recent Tashkent agreement, this type of quasi-international radiobroadcasting was intensified by both India and Pakistan and was a source of constant, mutual irritation.

India's concern over the radio propaganda reaching its population had deepened as Pakistan's capabilities grew and as Communist China's radiobroadcasting into the Himalayan border areas gathered momentum. In 1962 a special committee was established within the Indian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to develop means to strengthen India's position vis-à-vis Pakistan and Communist China in the emerging propaganda war. In 1963, India began active efforts to procure a 1,000-kw, medium-wave radiobroadcasting transmitter. Although the US offered to supply such a transmitter, a stipulation that a portion of the broadcasting time be allocated to Voice of America (VOA) was unacceptable to the Indian authorities.

2. Current Developments

In October 1965 the Indian Government, after lengthy negotiations, accepted a Soviet offer to build a 1,000-kw, medium-wave radio-broadcasting transmitter in Calcutta. Conclusion of this agreement was quickly followed by an announcement that Yugoslavia would construct a similar transmitter in Bombay -- a location later changed to Rajkot, near the Rann of Kutch. Both transmitters are intended to extend the coverage and effectiveness of international radiobroadcasts throughout South and Southeast Asia. The Soviet transmitter is to be paid for by India with local currency, but payment arrangements for the Yugoslav transmitter are not known.

India's decision to install these two leviathan transmitters brought a swift response from Pakistan. In mid-November the Pakistani

Minister of Information and Broadcasting announced that Pakistan intended to procure two 1,000-kw, medium-wave transmitters -- one each for East and West Pakistan. Negotiations between Pakistan and the USSR for delivery of these transmitters have apparently begun, but no details on contractual arrangements are known.

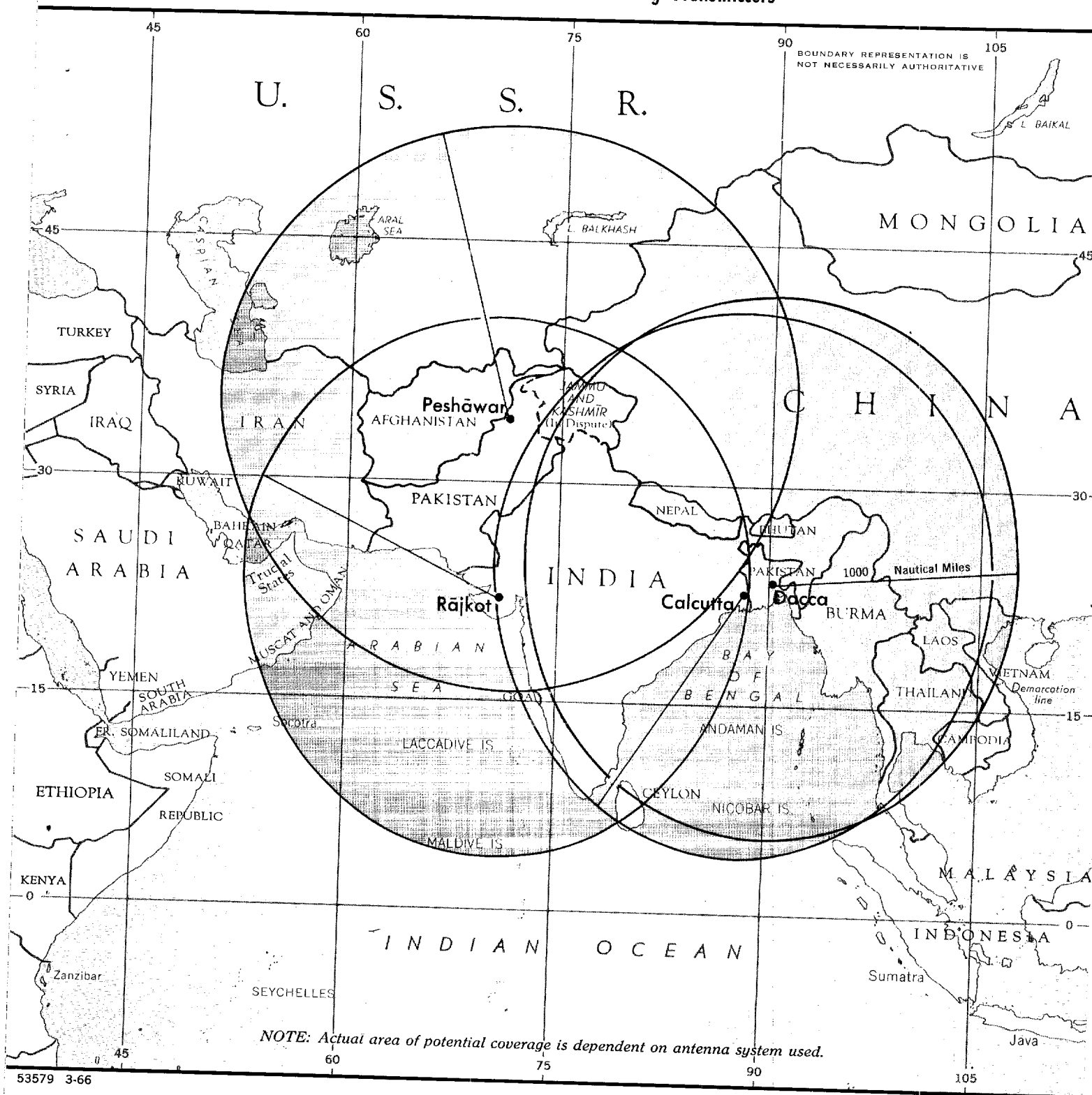
It was recognized by both India and Pakistan at the Tashkent conference that radio propaganda produced discord, and both parties agreed to "discourage any propaganda directed against the other country." A month later, however, plans for the transmitters were again surfaced by Pakistan's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, who announced that 1,000-kw transmitters "are being" installed in Dacca and Peshawar. This time it was India's turn to follow suit. Two weeks after the Pakistani announcement, India's Minister of Information and Broadcasting disclosed that India would pursue its earlier plans to install a 1,000-kw transmitter in Calcutta and another in the western portion of the country. India expects to have the Calcutta station in operation by the end of 1967 and the western station at Rajkot completed by the end of 1968. It is likely that similar completion schedules apply to the Pakistani transmitters as well.

3. Outlook

As shown on the accompanying map, the 1,000-kw transmitters planned by India and Pakistan overlap in their coverage of the sub-continent -- a factor that could be of crucial importance when they become operational. Both countries have announced plans for the use of these new radiobroadcasting stations that ostensibly conform with their Tashkent agreement. Nevertheless, when the stations go on the air, their overlapping coverage is almost certain to precipitate an intense rivalry for listening audiences. Both India and Pakistan will be heavily saturated with each other's radio programs -- a situation not likely to be well received in countries where radiobroadcasting is considered to be an instrument of national policy. The almost inevitable competition for audiences will place an added strain on the historically taut relationship between the two nations.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Estimated Nighttime Coverage of 1,000 Kilowatt
Medium-Wave Radiobroadcasting Transmitters



Sources:

1. FBIS. Daily Report (Middle East, Africa, and Western Europe), 28 Feb 65, p. p1. OFF USE.
2. Ibid., 19 Nov 65, p. ol. OFF USE.
3. FBIS. Station and Program Notes, no 440, 17 Jun 65, p. 7. OFF USE.
4. Ibid., no 473, 15 Feb 66, p. 4. OFF USE.

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Analyst:

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11 May 66

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Dissemination Control Branch, DD/CR
FROM : Chief, Publications Staff, ORR
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It is requested that the attached copies of CIA/RR CB 66-8, Powerful Broadcast Transmitters Planned in India and Pakistan: A New Source of Friction, March 1966, **CONFIDENTIAL**, be forwarded as follows:

State, INR Communications Center,
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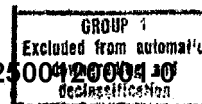
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Title: Powerful Broadcast Transmitters Planned in India and Pakistan:
A New Source of Friction (Confidential)

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30 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Dissemination Control Branch,
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FROM: Chief, Publications Staff, ORR

SUBJECT: Transmittal of CIA/RR CB 66-8, Powerful
Broadcast Transmitters Planned in India
and Pakistan: A New Source of Friction
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1. It is requested that the attached copies of subject report be forwarded to the recipients indicated on the attached covering memorandum. A list of the addressees is attached for your records.

2. It is further requested that this transmittal be handled as expeditiously as possible.

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Date: *30 Mar. 66*

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Rodger Davies
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near East and South
Asian Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: Powerful Broadcast Transmitters Planned in
India and Pakistan: A New Source of Friction

1. I believe that the attached report will be of interest to you.

2. In spite of the agreement at Tashkent to discourage propaganda against the other country, India and Pakistan are proceeding to install powerful 1,000 kilowatt medium-wave radio broadcast transmitters, whose coverage will overlap. The report concludes that there will almost certainly be intensive rivalry for listening audiences, which could impose added strains on an already taut relationship.

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WILLIAM M. MORELL, JR.
Director
Research and Reports

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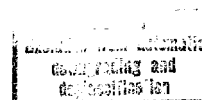
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